HPH

Public Health

HPH 500: Contemporary Issues in Public Health
This course provides an introduction to the field of public health that aims to develop an appreciation of the unique and important mission of public health; an understanding of the history, values, ethics, mission, and goals of public health; and knowledge about how public health functions today including the organization, financing, policies, and practices of public health. Students will be expected to think critically about whether public health has achieved its mission in today's world and how the profession might develop in the future. Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 501: Introduction to the Research Process
This course provides an overview of the research process including formulation of a research problem, conceptualization of the research design, construction of the instrument for data collection, selection of a sample, collection of data, and writing a research report. Topics include how to identify a research question and, correspondingly, how to formulate a clear, concise hypothesis or set of hypotheses; reasons and procedures for reviewing the literature; overview of observational and interventional research designs; review of measurement theory, types of scales, and commonly used measures in public health-related research; data collection methods including survey and qualitative methods; and the ethical conduct of research. Through the introduction of these topics, the course provides a general background for individuals who are interested in learning the fundamentals of how to prepare a research proposal. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 506: Biostatistics I
This is part 1 of a 2-term course and is intended to provide students and researchers in public health with an introduction to the principles of statistical methods and their application in biomedical and public health research. Students are expected to enroll in parts 1 and 2 sequentially within the same academic year. This course includes introductions to the use of computers for statistical analysis, summarizing and exploring data, probability theory, discrete and continuous probability distributions, populations and samples, sampling distributions and statistical inference, hypothesis testing, sample size and power, two-sample comparisons, analysis of variance, association and correlation, simple linear regression and simple logistic regression. Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent; Level 3 or higher on Math Placement Exam or equivalent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 507: Biostatistics II
This is part 2 of a 2-term course and is intended to provide students and researchers in public health with an introduction to the principles of statistical methods and their application in biomedical and public health research. Students are expected to enroll in parts 1 and 2 sequentially within the same academic year. This course includes introductions to the use of computers for statistical analysis, summarizing and exploring data, probability theory, discrete and continuous probability distributions, populations and samples, sampling distributions and statistical inference, hypothesis testing, sample size and power, two-sample comparisons, analysis of variance, association and correlation, simple linear regression and simple logistic regression. Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 508: Health Care Systems
This course introduces students to the system that we have developed to deliver health care in the United States, with international comparisons. The topics include the organization and financing of health care systems, access to health care including health insurance, regulation and policy issues, and the health care workforce. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 514: Epidemiology for Public Health
This course presents basic epidemiologic concepts used to study health and disease in populations. It provides an overview of the major causes of morbidity and mortality, including methods of measurement (e.g., incidence, prevalence). Observational and experimental epidemiologic studies will be described and their advantages and disadvantages compared. The course aims for students to begin developing the skills needed to evaluate data, interpret reports, design, and conduct studies. Students will be introduced to the various areas of epidemiologic studies, including cancer, molecular/genetic, environmental, occupational, social and behavioral, and infectious disease surveillance. The course comprises both lectures and small group seminars for in-depth discussions of previously assigned topics. Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 516: Environmental and Occupational Health
This course is designed to provide the fundamentals of environmental and occupational health and to educate students on issues related to major environmental and occupational concerns. It will provide a forum for the discussion of local and national environmental and occupational public health issues. The content of the course will focus on major pollutants, their detection, impact on health, and principles of remediation. Using various teaching techniques, students will be exposed to current environmental and occupational topics and approaches to prevention and treatment. The course will emphasize the most recent research in the field. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 519: Independent Study
Intensive reading, under supervision of one or more instructors, of material not covered in the formal curriculum, or execution of a research project under the supervision of one or more faculty members. Permission of MPH Academic Coordinator is required. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent.
0-6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated 5 times FOR credit.

HPH 521: Introduction to Clinical Research
This introductory seminar series provides a broad-based overview of clinical science research methods, as well as guidance for critically reviewing the peer-reviewed literature. Class lectures, exercises, and interactive small group sessions will cover framing a research question, formulating a research hypothesis, critically appraising the literature, exploring study design options, conducting research ethically and responsibly, selecting clinical outcomes, and evaluating analytical alternatives. Students enrolled in the
Master of Public Health degree program can
not use this course (earn credit) to their degree
requirements.

1 credit, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated 3 TIMES FOR credit.

**HPH 523: Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health**
This course introduces students to population
health as one of the organizing concepts in
public health and the orientation that
differentiates public health from medicine.
Consistent with public health tradition, health
is discussed from an ecological perspective,
and the course presents current knowledge
about the multiple determinants of population
health including socioeconomic status,
the physical environment, medical care,
individual behavior, and genetics and the
interaction of these factors. Also covered
is the measurement of population health,
sources of data and methods for assessing
population health improvements. Prerequisite:
Admission to Graduate Public Health Program
or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 525: Evaluating Programs and Policies to Improve Health**
This course introduces students to health
policy analysis and public health program
evaluation, two distinct fields that share
similar tools, albeit with different goals
in mind and approaches to meet these
goals. Specifically, this course (1) draws on
economics, epidemiology, political science,
and biostatistics to prepare students to conduct
holistic analyses of health policy issues,
(2) prepares students to plan a program
evaluation; and (3) prepares students to evaluate
public policy options. Prerequisite:
Admission to Graduate Public Health Program
or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 527: Health Economics and Policy**
This course will provide students with a
comprehensive view of the reasons behind
the rapid rise in medical expenditures in
the United States over nearly four decades,
and the measures that have been proposed
to address this problem. This course will
cover the following topics: the demand and
supply of medical care; the dynamics of
competition in the health care industry; the
role of government in medical care; general
understanding of health care institutions,
including Medicare, Medicaid, managed
care, hospital and physician behavior, and
pharmaceutical markets; and health care
reform. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate
Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 529: Fundamentals of Healthcare Management**
This course provides students with an
overview of concepts and issues related to
healthcare leadership. Through the
examination of management topics and
healthcare situations, the student will
explore the skills and knowledge needed
to be successful in a diverse healthcare
environment. Topics include healthcare
leadership, organizational design as it relates to
the uniqueness of healthcare organizations,
managing professionals, and supervisory to
mid-level management. It is designed for the
Health Policy and Management concentration
but is open to all MPH students. Prerequisite:
Admission to Graduate Public Health Program
or Department Consent; HPH 508

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 534: Spatial Analysis: Health Applications**
This course is an intermediate level graduate
course in the application of spatial methods
for analyzing environmental exposure and
disease data. Students with backgrounds in
epidemiology, public health, environmental
health, biostatistics, community health,
biology, sociology, psychology, marine
and atmospheric sciences, geosciences,
demography, and geography are particularly encouraged to participate. Although the course
will focus on examples related to human
health, graduate students in other disciplines
will find the course useful for specific and
appropriately defined research purposes.
Techniques for spatially analyzing point
patterns and aggregated data in polygons
will be introduced, including autocorrelation,
clustering analysis, geostatistical smoothing,
and approaches for spatial regression.
Consideration of space-time variability
will also be covered. This course includes
theoretical elements so that the student will
learn to appreciate strengths and weaknesses
of different spatial approaches. Prior course in
GIS or equivalent, as determined by consent
from the instructor required. Students need
a foundational knowledge of Geographic
Information Systems (GIS) software. This
requirement can be met by completing
GSS 313: GIS Design and Application I (if available), by completing other Introduction
to GIS courses at Stony Brook or elsewhere,
or by self-teaching using the following book:
Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop by Tim
Ormsby, Eileen Napoleon, and Robert Burke.
Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public
Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 542: Introduction to Global Health**
This course will provide an introduction to the
field of global health and challenge students
to think about how a global perspective could
enhance their future practice. The course is
designed for MD and MPH students, and
is open to students from related graduate
programs with instructor permission. This
course will explore core concepts in global
health, including its definition and origin;
how to measure the global burden of disease;
recent progress and current challenges; social
inequalities in health; health systems; and
global stakeholders. It will also apply such
corcepts to major global health topics, with
foci on such areas as HIV/AIDS, child
health and immunization, chronic disease
epidemiology and sexual violence.

2 credits, SF graded

**HPH 549: Public Health Law**
This course is a survey of legal and policy
issues that have special relevance for public
health professionals. Topics may vary, but
typically will include many of the following:
structure of the U.S. legal system; power
of state governments in matters affecting
health care; governmental power and the
right to privacy; constitutional issues in social
welfare benefits; governmental regulation of
health care providers and payers; the scope
and discretion of administrative agencies in
health care; the antitrust laws; the fraud
and abuse laws; and negligence in the delivery
and financing of health care. Prerequisite:
Admission to Graduate Public Health Program.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 550: Theories of Health Behavior and Communication**
In this survey theory course, students learn
about the major health behavior and health
communication theories that are used in
population health research and practice. Rather
than simply cataloging each theory in turn,
this course takes a constant, comparative,
approach to the learning of theories, in which
theories are dissected to their core elements
and compared to each other in order to
understand the points of convergence and
divergence among them. The goal in taking
this comparative approach is application:
by knowing the core elements of various theories,
students will more easily be able to choose
appropriate theories to explain population
health problems of interest and consider the
design of interventions that are appropriate
to achieve improvements in the educational,
behavioral and environmental factors that
may contribute to the problem. In addition to
covering traditional individual-level behavior
change and health communication theories,
this course will focus on social change and systems theories, challenging students to think about the role of social context and systems on health behavior and health communication to achieve population health improvements. Finally, after learning about commonly-used theories in the field of public health, students will learn about and critique theories that are less-commonly used (such as new and emerging theories in the literature) and have important implications for future research, practice, and further theory development and testing among populations. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 551: Practice of Health Communications
This course provides an overview of health communication. The course will introduce theories concerning health communication, and build on such to provide practical approaches to interpersonal and organizational health communication, risk communication, and media campaigns. Students will learn to collect, organize, and convey information effectively to different audiences important to public health initiatives. Throughout, the course will emphasize how health literacy and cultural beliefs influence effective communication, and students will be challenged to develop communication tools (e.g., social marketing campaigns, presentations, op-ed s) optimized for a specific population. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 552: Planning and Implementing Community Health Initiatives
In this course, students learn how to develop theoretically-informed and evidence-based community health initiatives. Over the course of the semester, students work on developing their own culturally-competent community health initiatives, each of which is targeted at a particular population with a specific health need. Each student learns how to assess community needs and assets using a variety of methods, elaborate an initiative's theory of change through use of logic model, design theoretically-informed intervention activities appropriate to the needs/assets identified, create a budget and organizational structure, and engage key stakeholders at every facet of development and implementation of the community health initiative. Students work together in the same small group over the course of the semester to get/give feedback and hone their individual projects. Through this intense group work, students both (1) learn how to apply course concepts to several particular community health problems and (2) gain skills for working in teams on community health initiative planning and implementation. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent; HPH 550.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 553: Advanced Evaluation of Community Health Initiatives
This course prepares students to plan, implement, and utilize an evaluation of a community health initiative. Basic principles and practices of evaluation are addressed, including identifying the goals of a community health initiative; designing an evaluation plan that can determine if the initiative's goals are achieved; implementing an evaluation plan; interacting with stakeholders; and using evaluation results to improve performance. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 554: Principles of Health Education & Promotion
This course aims to provide students with the historical, theoretical, and philosophical foundations of health education and promotion. Students will be given the tools to work with community and patient populations. Students will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to raise people's health awareness, as well as the tools needed to teach people how to reduce their risk of disease and promote health. All students will be required to design a health education and promotion program using the knowledge and skills learned in the course. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 555: Global Health and Demography
This course introduces students to the basic theory and methods employed in the study of demography. The students will understand life table methodology, population projection, sources of demographic data, patterns in global fertility and mortality, the demographic transition, current patterns in fertility, marriage and work, abortion and contraception, and fertility/mortality interrelationships. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

HPH 559: Advanced Research Methods
This course will provide students with an in-depth review of principles of public health research methods. Emphasis will be placed on conceptualization of research questions, evaluation of research design, sample size, and issues related to potential threats to validity within a public/applied setting. Additionally, students will become familiar with how to evaluate methods used in published literature and to design their own research projects. Course topics will include how to obtain secondary data, sample size calculation, risk adjustment, bias, confounding, and interaction. The instructor will work with students as they develop their own analytic project proposals. Students will be expected to implement their proposed research in HPH 560 Advanced Biostatistics in the following semester. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
within population health and related fields (e.g., social welfare, nursing, medicine, sociology, and psychology). The course begins with an introduction to the epistemological and ontological underpinnings of qualitative inquiry, with special attention to how these factors affect the types of research questions often asked (and answered) by qualitative researchers. Students then learn the nuts-and-bolts of qualitative research design and data collection through review of existing qualitative studies and hands-on application. Homework and in-class exercises over the course of the semester give students practice in (a) designing a feasible qualitative research study, and (b) collecting three kinds of qualitative data: participant observation, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. The course concludes with an overview of steps for data analysis, including coding, memo-writing, and triangulation. Emphasized throughout the course are methodological issues germane to qualitative (and quantitative) research: reflexivity of the researcher, appropriate treatment of human subjects, and obtaining quality data. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 566: Clinical Trials**

This course introduces the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials. Topics will include types of clinical trials, study design, treatment allocation, randomization and stratification, quality control, sample size requirements, patient consent, and interpretation of results.

2 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 575: Public Health Internship**

This course is an applied internship in a public, not-for-profit, or private sector organization that provides a public health service. Students will gain practical public health skills through a semester long internship. The student will work in the organization and prepares a weekly journal of activities, as well as a paper at the conclusion of the course, applying program knowledge to the internship activities. Graduate Graded and may be repeated for credit. MPH Academic Coordinator consent required. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program and Department Consent

0-12 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**HPH 580: Practicum**

The Practicum is a planned experience in a supervised and evaluated public health-related practice setting. A journal of fieldwork and a project, with a written report, are required. Students will be expected to demonstrate their “capacity to organize, analyze, interpret and communicate knowledge in an applied manner.” Health departments, as well as a variety of other local organizations, offer a wide array of potential sites for the Practicum experience. Permission of MPH Academic Coordinator is required. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program and Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 581: Capstone**

This course will assist students in synthesizing basic public health knowledge through completion of several competency-driven learning experiences. Most core and concentration course work must be completed before the student can participate in Capstone. Students will be introduced to the process of writing grant proposals and developing budgets, professional networking with non-academic community partners, publishing in the scientific literature; communicating practice-based projects in both oral and poster presentation formats, and planning for their future careers as public health professionals. They will self-assess their own conflict styles and apply negotiation and mediation skills to address community and/or organizational challenges, and reflect on their conflict styles when considering case studies. Students will also engage in inter-professional education learning activities to improve their understanding and communication of their roles, values/ethics, and how to work effectively as part of an inter-professional team. Students will apply systems thinking to a case study to create a logic model that demonstrates the complex systems involved in a population health issue. Lastly, they will present their own work as part of their Practicum to fellow students, and discuss career plans. Permission of MPH Academic Coordinator is required. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program and Department Consent

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 585: Introduction to Biostatistics & Epidemiology**

This course is an introduction to the principles of statistical methods and epidemiology and their application in the health sciences. The student will develop a basic understanding of statistics, epidemiology, and interpretation of research studies in order to communicate risk and scientific evidence to colleagues and the public, directly or through the press. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program or Department Consent

4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**HPH 599: Maintenance of Matriculation**

This course is for students who are maintaining matriculation while engaging in consultation with faculty regarding completion of courses and/or master’s project. Students will be graded S/F. Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Public Health Program and Department Consent

0-3 credits, S/F graded
May be repeated for credit.